POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL

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SEPTEMBER 14

FOLLOWING IS DANANG 122, DATED SEPT 13, REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE:

1. SITUATION IN DANANG REMAINED NORMAL DURING IMMEDIATE POST ELECTION PERIOD.

2. SEPT 13 MAYOR OF DANANG SAID THAT "SO-CALLED HUNGER STRIKE" AT TINH HOI PAGODA HAD DIED OUT AND THAT EVERYONE HAD GONE HOME. HE CLAIMED THAT OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN UNNECESSARY BECAUSE PEOPLE OF DANANG JUST ARE NOT LISTENING TO RADICAL BUDDHISTS ANYMORE. HE EXPECTS NO CIVIL UNREST IN DANANG IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. MAYOR SAID THAT MAJORITY OF 7,442 INVALID VOTES IN DANANG HAD BEEN DUE TO VOTERS PUTTING MORE THAN ONE BALLOT IN ENVELOPE. HE SAID THAT RELATIVELY FEW HAD FOLLOWED RADICAL BUDDHIST EXHORTATION TO PLACE EMPTY ENVELOPES IN BALLOT BOXES. HE BELIEVES THAT MOST OF INVALID VOTES WERE CAST BY ILLITERATE "MARKET WOMEN" AND THAT RELATIVELY FEW WERE ACTUALLY TO SABOTAGE ELECTIONS.

MAYOR SAID THAT ELECTIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY HONEST AND OVERBOARD. RUMORS THAT PEOPLE WHO DID NOT VOTE WOULD BE ISHED WERE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. HE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE OLUTELY NO HARRASSMENT OF NON-VOTERS.

AYOR GAVE DANANG POLICE MAJOR CREDIT FOR EXCELLENT SECURITY NG SEPT 11. HE SAID THAT HIGHER AUTHORITIES HAD OFFERED HIM PS FOR DANANG ELECTIONS BUT THAT HE HAD REFUSED FOR OLOGICAL REASONS. TWO COMPANIES OF RANGERS WERE IN TOWN AS BLOCKING FORCE IN CASE VIET CONG TRIED TO LAUNCH AN RAID ON POLLS.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Lyall DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON (S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

6. COMMENT: AS OF SEPT 14 FRONT DOORS OF TINH HOI PAGODA WIDE OPEN AND NO ONE IN SIGHT. MEETING APPEARS TO BE OVER. RANGERS AND CAVALRY ELEMENTS (APPROX 285 OFFICERS AND MEN) HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM CITY. UNIFORMED POLICE AND POLICE FIELD FORCE NOW PROVIDING ALL SECURITY IN CITY. PFF ARE LOCATED IN SMALL NUMBERS AT TINH HOI PAGODA AND AT A FEW KEY INTERSECTIONS. MAYOR'S COMMENT RE EXCELLENT WORK DANANG POLICE HAVE DONE IN COUNTERING KNOWN VIET CONG TERROR PLANS APPEARS WELL TAKEN. LOWER PERCENTAGES INVALID VOTE IN OTHER I CORPS PROVINCES. IT WOULD SEEM THAT RADICAL BUDDHISTS DID EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE IN DANANG. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, DANANG INVALID VOTE OBVIOUSLY MUCH LOWER THAN RADICAL BUDDHISTS AND VIET CONG WOULD HAVE LIKED. POLAD FRANCIS GP-3

UNQUOTE LODGE
BT

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